

**JILL STEIN FOR PRESIDENT**  
Ben Manski, Campaign Manager

November 27, 2012

TO: Federal Election Commission  
Office of General Counsel  
999 E. Street, NW, Washington D.C. 20463

CC: Jeff Jordan  
Federal Election Commission  
Complaints Examination & Legal Administration  
999 E. Street, NW, Washington D.C. 20463

RE: Letter received November 14<sup>th</sup> re: MUR 6681

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FEDERAL ELECTION  
COMMISSION  
2012 NOV 28 AM 11:29  
OFFICE OF GENERAL  
COUNSEL

*To whom it may concern,*

In her FEC complaint of October 31, 2012, Gail Parker claims that she is owed a significant sum of money by Jill Stein for President. But as Parker's own statements and all the documentation provided clearly establish, Jill Stein for President never was a client of Gail Parker or of SteppingStone Industries, Inc..

Instead, as Ms. Parker states in her complaint, Parker independently went out and collected signatures "as a way to keep my business going and to provide income for myself." She then sought to collect payment for those signatures from various parties, regardless of the fact that she was never contracted for her services in the first place.

The victim in this case is Jill Stein for President and our staff, who have been forced to respond to Ms. Parker and her attempts to extract payment for services we neither wanted nor agreed to. Furthermore, to reward Ms. Parker for her actions in this case would be to establish a precedent whereby any election service provider in the future might similarly extort payment from a political campaign by performing unsolicited work.

A review of Ms. Parker's own submitted documents, as well as those attached here by Jill Stein for President (referred to hereafter as JSP), shows the following:

1. That on learning that Ms. Parker existed, and that she was collecting signatures on petitions that named Jill Stein as a presidential candidate, and that she expected payment for these signatures, Erika Wolf of JSP reacted cautiously and asked for further information in order to establish who authorized Ms. Parker to collect the signatures.

In her email of June 3<sup>rd</sup>, Parker for the first time informed JSP that she had unilaterally collected 2000 signatures, and that she expected payment for these. In response, on June 4<sup>th</sup>, Wolf asked, "who has been your [Parker's] contact with the petition drive," and whether, "anyone confirmed with you [Parker] before now."

Wolf asked these questions at my personal direction, and in order to establish that Parker was operating on her own and without the knowledge or agreement of JSP.

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Parker's reply that same day, June 4<sup>th</sup>, confirms that she had not been in contact with any authorized representative of JSP. Instead, Parker had been trying, without success, to get money out of the Green Party of Virginia, via a private citizen named Audrey Clement.

2. Two weeks later, on June 16<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Parker emailed Ms. Wolf to again ask for money, writing that, "\$3 is good only [SIC] so long as I am collecting, and the price may increase when I have completed." This email, together with the previous communication, made clear that Parker intended to continue to collect signatures regardless of whether JSP agreed to pay for them, and further, that Parker intended to withhold those signatures unless she received her unilaterally established price per signature of \$3/sig, a rate much higher than any agreed to by JSP in the course of election 2012.
3. On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, JSP's Ms. Wolf was cc'd on an email thread which revealed that Ms. Parker was associated not with the Green Party of Virginia, but with another entity that describes itself as the so-called "Independent Green Party of Virginia."

I have prior experience with that entity, and, together with most every other Green Party leader I know who is aware of that entity, see the "Independent Greens" as an illegitimate attempt to coopt the Green Party's good name for purposes contrary to the mission of the party. Mr. Carey Campbell, the author of an email in that thread, is the ringleader of this entity. He is someone I have known of for some time. He has long been banned from Green Party meetings, including campaign events of Jill Stein for President.

4. On June 26<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Wolf sent Ms. Parker an extensive email message that read in part, "I have not agreed to contract with anyone in Virginia for signatures." Wolf urged Parker to make whatever arrangements she intended to make with the Green Party of Virginia, not with JSP. And Wolf made clear that JSP would not be blackmailed into paying for signatures we had never asked for or agreed to pay for, writing that, "it is illegal to do otherwise [than submit the signatures] you have collected."

Ms. Wolf added this last sentence because JSP was now concerned that citizens who signed Parker's petitions would later refuse to sign legitimate petitions circulated on behalf of JSP. A failure to submit those signatures, in my view, would have been to perpetrate a fraud on Virginia voters and to interfere with the purposes of the State of Virginia's ballot access requirements.

5. Throughout the months of July and August, the record shows repeated attempts by Ms. Parker to gain agreement from JSP to pay her for her signatures. Ms. Parker primarily did this by communicating with the Green Party of Virginia, which on August 13<sup>th</sup> and in other communications clearly told Parker to "direct further correspondence to Erika Wolf, as she will be making the decisions for the campaign about the signatures."

At no time did Ms. Wolf agree to pay Parker for the signatures, and Ms. Parker was and is perfectly aware of this fact, as demonstrated by her own statement in her complaint letter, page 2, paragraph 1, to the effect that, "An agreement was never finalized with the Stein campaign, but email correspondence [with Audrey Clement of the Green Party of Virginia] (Exhibit 1) led me to believe that I could expect \$1 per signature from the VAGP (Audrey Clement) and I should get the other \$2.00 per signature from the Stein campaign . . ."

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If Ms. Parker had an agreement with anyone, it was with Audrey Clement, an individual who had repeatedly made clear to Parker, as the record shows, that she (Clement) was not an authorized representative of the Stein campaign.

Jill Stein for President made other arrangements to collect the necessary signatures to gain ballot placement in Virginia. We contracted with June Brashares of California to collect signatures, as well as with Direct Democracy Unlimited, a petition-gathering firm that was less expensive and which we had used in many other states to our general satisfaction. We also mobilized campaign volunteers to assist in the petition gathering effort.

In the end, Ms. Parker submitted her signatures to the State of Virginia. She did this knowing that she had no agreement from JSP to compensate her for them. Every election cycle, tens of thousands of individuals across the country collect signatures in order to place the names of their preferred candidates on the ballot. The vast majority of these individuals are not compensated for their time or expenses.

Ms. Parker is an individual who has made a business of collecting signatures. That she, as a businesswoman, chose to spend her time collecting signatures for a campaign that did not ask for nor agree to her services, is Parker's own issue. The campaign cannot be held hostage to unscrupulous election service providers of this type.

Sincerely,



Ben Manski  
Campaign Manager  
Jill Stein for President

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